telephone connections progressively by 31.08.1998.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, The physical work of telephone installation in Sector II Rohini, New Delhi area was done in anticipation of the availability of Power-Gain System which was to be spared from Sector 6 Exchange area after the completion of underground cable construction work and associated area transfer; which was delayed due to reasons beyond control. The area-transfer work was completed on 02-05-1998 and all these telephones have been provided by second week of June, 1998 utilising the spared pair-gain-system.

(e) No, Sir. Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

(f) Telephone connections have already been provided in second week of June, 1998 to these applicants.

Telephone Connections under MPs Quota

2951. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons to whom telephone connections were sanctioned in Gurgaon (Haryana) on Out of Turn priority basis under MPs quota from January, 1998 till date;

(b) whether all the beneficiaries have been provided telephone connections within the stipulated time period, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) action proposed to be taken against officials concerned for the delay; and

(d) by when all the beneficiaries will be provided with fully operational telephone connections under MPs quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDARA PURKAYASTHA): (a) thirty persons were sanctioned Out of Turn telephone connections out of MPs quota as per Annexure attached from January, 1998 till date. [*See* Appendix *184* Annexure No. *81*]

(b) No Sir. Twenty five out of thirty telephone connections have been provided so far. Detailed reasons for non-installation of five telephones are given in Annesure. [*See* Appendix *184* Annexure No. *84*]

(c) Not applicable in view of reasons given in Annexure.

(d) There is only one case where area is technically non-feasible. The telephone is likely to be provided during next expansion by 31-3-1999 subject to availability of stores.

Restructuring of Department of Tele-Communications

2952. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to undertake restructuring of the Department of Telecommunications and corporatize this; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDARA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The question of restructuring of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) in regard, mainly, to distancing the policy-making and licensing functions from operational functions is being examined, keeping in view, inter alia, the need to enhance functional efficiency so as to effectively meet the emerging competition. With the setting up also of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) last year, the distancing of the policy-making and licensing functions from those of operations is being regarded as a logical step.

It may be recalled that a Committee headed by Dr. Athreya, a noted management expert, was set up some